



U.S. Department of Justice

CHANNING D. PHILLIPS
*Acting United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

PRESS RELEASE

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For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

Benjamin Friedman (202) 514-6933

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Northeast District Man Sentenced to Twenty-One and One-half Years for October 2008 Shooting Death of Karon Shannon

Washington, D.C. - D'Angelo Johnson, 19, of the 1200 block of Holbrook Terrace, N.E., was sentenced today by Superior Court Judge Herbert Dixon to twenty-one-and-a-half years in prison for the October 19, 2008 murder of seventeen-year-old Karon Shannon in the 1200 block of Simms Place, N.E., announced Channing D. Phillips, Acting U.S. Attorney. Johnson, who was 18 at the time of the murder, pled guilty on April 17, 2009, to one count of Second Degree Murder and one count of Assault with a Dangerous Weapon.

The murder arose from a rivalry between defendant Johnson, who was associated with the Edgewood Terrace, N.E. neighborhood, and the decedent, Karon Shannon, who was associated with the 1st and O Street, N.E. neighborhood. According to Johnson's sworn statement at the plea proceeding, Johnson walked up to Shannon in the 1200 block of Simms Place, N.E. on Sunday evening, October 19, 2008, with a revolver tucked into the sleeve of his jacket. The Redskins game had just ended and the street was crowded with neighbors talking about the game. As soon as Shannon began speaking to defendant Johnson, Johnson shot Shannon twice at point blank range. When Shannon tried to run across the street, Johnson turned and fired twice more. These two shots also hit Shannon, and one of the shots exited Shannon's arm and hit a fifteen-year-old female bystander in the leg. Shannon was pronounced dead at the hospital later that night.

When sentencing Johnson, D.C. Superior Court Judge Herbert B. Dixon, Jr. noted that the defendant and decedent were once friends, and stated that he had given up trying to understand why bad things happened to good people, and why good people did bad things. The Court then imposed a twenty-year sentence for the homicide, and a one-and-a-half year sentence for the shooting of the female bystander, with both sentences to run consecutively.

In announcing today's sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips stated that those involved in mindless violence between neighborhood rivalries who put innocent bystanders in harm's way pose a threat to the entire community and will be vigorously prosecuted. He praised

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the investigative efforts of MPD Homicide Detectives Tony Patterson and Carol Queen, and further commended victim witness advocate Marcia Rinker, who worked closely with the families of both victims, and Assistant U.S. Attorney David P. Saybolt, who prosecuted this case.

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